

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 801

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, MILI, US, NI

SUBJECT: FMG REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ASSIGNMENT NEW DEFENSE
ADVISOR NIGERIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED AUGUST 20, HAND DELIVERED TO EMBASSY BY OFFICIAL FROM OFFICE MEA PERMSEC, FMG HAS REQUESTED CONCURRENCE USG TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF COL. JOHNSON KOLA FALOPE OF NIGERIAN AIR FORCE AS DEFENSE ADVISOR, NIGERIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, D.C. NOTE SAYS FALOPE IS TO REPLACE COL. AIDIDA WHO HAS BEEN REASSIGNED AS CHIEF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, NIGERIA.

2. FALOPE HAS RANK OF TEMPORARY COLONEL. HE WAS BORN ILE-IFE, WESTERN NIGERIA, AUGUST 28, 1940 AND ENLISTED IN NIGERIAN AIRFORCE JULY 12, 1962. RECEIVED FLIGHT TRAINING IN ETHIOPIA SAME YEAR. ALSO RECEIVED FLIGHT TRAINING IN WEST GERMANY BEFORE BEING COMMISSIONED JANUARY 13, 1964. ACCORDING TO CURRICULUM VITAE PROVIDED BY MEA HE HOLDS QTE COMBATANT REGULAR SERVICE COMMISSION UNQTE. FALOPE IS A PILOT WHO SINCE FEBRUARY LAST YEAR HAS SERVED AS COMMANDANT NIGERIAN FLYING SCHOOL. THE COLONEL AND HIS WIFE HAVE 6 CHILDREN. (FOR FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SEE IR 6 8 71 0180 75)

3. COMMENT: DAO ASSESSMENT OF FALOPE (IR 6 8 71 0180 75) INDICATES HE DOES NOT GET ALONG WITH YISA DOKO, HAS NOT BEEN NOTED FOR HONESTY AND CAN BE ARROGANT (ALTHOUGH SEEMS PRO-U.S.). HIS ASSIGNMENT TO WASHINGTON WILL GET HIM OUT OF YISA DOKO'S
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HAIR, POSSIBLY A PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATION IN HIS APPOINTMENT.

DESPITE THIS AND DESPITE FOOT-DRAGGING OF FORMER FMG IN
APPROVING ASSIGNMENT OF COL. BROOKS AS U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHE
IN LAGOS, WE RECOMMEND PROMPT AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO THIS
REQUEST ON ASSIGNMENT OF FALOPE AS NIGERIAN DEFENSE ADVISER,
WASHINGTON. WE SEE NO VIABLE BASIS FOR OBJECTION AND BELIEVE EARLY
ACTION WOULD BE IN INTERESTS OF BUILDING ON NEW AND MORE FRIENDLY
RELATIONSHIPS WHICH SEEM TO BE EVOLVING BETWEEN EMBASSY AND FMG.
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